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SOURCE

La Libre Belgique

SOVIETS EVACUATE FOUR AIR BASES IN EAST GERMANY

It has been learned from reliable sources in Berlin that the Soviets have evacuated four of their air bases in East Germany. All installations, including reserves of fuel, have been removed from the Werneuchen air field and shipped by rail in the direction of the USSR. The large jet fighter base at Neupetershain, which a few days ago had 30 MIGs, has now been stripped of all men and machines. The same is true of the two air bases in central Brandenburg: Finsterwalde and Brandt.

The above information comes from sources in the East German underground and has been verified by Allied authorities.

After the outbreak of the Korean war, the Russians based some 600 jets and a number of conventional fighter planes in their zone. They maintained about 20 bases, of which at least 12 were suitable for use by jets.

It is reported that the evacuated bases have not been placed at the disposal of the East Germans. This is undoubtedly due to the fact that the 10,000-man East German Air Force has not been sufficiently trained to operate independently.

No reasonable explanation has been discovered for this Soviet move, but in any case the Russians still have a sufficiently large number of bases in the East Zone.

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